

NOW WE'RE TALKING MONEY

The seeds for the City of Las Vegas were planted 100 years ago at an area called Big Springs. Today, Big Springs is called the Las Vegas Springs Preserve and it is among other areas in Clark County that will receive funding for projects that will improve the quality of life for residents of and visitors to Nevada.

Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton approved spending \$493 million to improve parks, trails and natural areas, support conservation initiatives, improve federally-managed facilities in Clark County and acquire environmentally

sensitive lands in Clark, Washoe and Pershing counties.

The funds were raised by public land sales in the Las Vegas Valley under the authority of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act. Norton commended the Nevada Congressional delegation for their great vision in developing the law which provides for development in the Las Vegas Valley, and extraordinary recreation and conservation opportunities for Clark County residents and visitors.

ROUND 6 NOMINATIONS OPEN...

Looking for an opportunity to get worthwhile projects funded?

The Bureau of Land Management is seeking nominations for projects and land acquisitions with funds raised through sale of public land in the Las Vegas Valley. Nominations may be submitted from August 30 through November 22.

The expenditures are authorized by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA). The categories for nominations are:

- Park, trail and natural area development projects in partnership with local governments in Clark County.
- Conservation initiatives, including environmental education projects.
- Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan development (nominations will be accepted through January 6, 2005).
- Capital improvement projects at federal recreation areas in Clark County, including Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, the Desert National Wildlife Refuge and in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area.
- Environmentally sensitive land acquisitions.

Information about nomination procedures, as well as the SNPLMA, is available on the BLM Web site at www.nv.blm.gov/snplma. The mailing address is:

**BLM Las Vegas Field Office
Land Sales and Acquisitions
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130**

ROUND 5 EXPENDITURES

- More than \$230 million is slated for 30 park, trail and natural areas projects including the Las Vegas Springs Preserve, Sport Shooting Park and Las Vegas Wash.
- Almost \$88.5 million was approved for 31 capital improvements including a lake sanitation program, infrastructure at Red Rock Canyon Desert Learning Center and pedestrian access enhancements.
- More than \$48 million was dedicated to 20 conservation initiatives such as a groundwater model in northeast Clark County, eliminating litter and desert dumping through community education, and increasing students understanding of the public land.
- More than \$47 million was approved for eight acquisitions of environmentally sensitive land such as Stuart Ranch and White Basin in Clark County.
- For the first time, funding for Lake Tahoe restoration projects was approved. More than \$37 million is dedicated to 50 restoration projects.

To learn more about the projects or the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, please visit the Web site at www.nv.blm.gov/snplma.

—Kirsten Cannon
Las Vegas Field Office

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State Director's Comments: It's Been a Good Year!



The federal government's fiscal year closed on September 30 and it came at just the right time as we were down to the last dollar in our budget. The ending of a fiscal year is always a good time to look back over the previous 12 months and assess our performance.

And what a year it was!

Whether we were dealing with a multi-national mining corporation, suppressing wildland fires, or serving a family seeking a single Christmas tree, BLM employees met the challenge.

Due to the combined efforts of BLM employees, volunteers, and other public land stakeholders, we have accomplished a great deal this past year. For example, over 50 fuels assessment and treatment projects were completed which reduced the risks from catastrophic wildland fire to 20 communities. We issued 25 geothermal leases, which sets the stage for the production of cleaner sources of energy, and we completed work on four major land use plans. Close to 5,100 wild horses were removed from public lands in Nevada bringing us ever closer to the established appropriate management levels. More than 5.5 million people used public lands in Nevada for recreational pursuits and BLM offices in Nevada collected over \$1 billion from land and mineral sales, permits, and leases. Given that BLM's operating budget in Nevada was about \$55 million with an additional \$27 million for fire, I would say the public received a pretty good return on their investment.

These are just a few examples of our accomplishments and they are intended to demonstrate the diversity of programs that we administer. While each is noteworthy, the most important accomplishment to me is that we continue to see improvements in the overall ecological health of the public's land. This is a tribute to our dedicated workforce

and to those in both the public and private sector who work with us in pursuit of common goals.

I recently completed a tour of the state visiting each of our six field offices and meeting with BLM employees and with members of the public. During these visits, I heard about the successes as well as the challenges we have. Acknowledging that the job of managing 48 million acres or multiple uses is not easy by any means, I feel very good about our ability to meet every challenge that presents itself. My optimism is based on my faith in BLM employees and the public land stakeholders I have come to know. Each of us is committed to leaving these public lands a little better off for future generations.

Comments received from the public have been mostly complimentary of the actions administered at the local level. One common theme from stakeholders is their desire for BLM employees to continue seeking input from various interest groups including tribal, local and state governmental officials, as we plan for and implement actions on the ground. I am pleased with the level of support that we are receiving across the state and in return, everyone should be assured that BLM employees will do our best to maintain the trust that has taken us so long to achieve. While a few folks will continue their agenda of conflict, we are fortunate in Nevada to have many more people who are willing to pitch in and help us meet Congressional mandates and achieve mutual resource management goals. These are the people I do not want to let down.

As we look to the future, I wish I could say that budgets are likely to improve but the truth is, our funding level will stay pretty much the same as previous years despite increasing workloads. Planning and project implementation will be directed towards our highest priorities since we simply cannot do everything we would like to do. Some priorities are determined for us by special legislation, required by regulation, or are time-dependent such as mining applications and permits.

BLM managed public lands in Nevada have received a lot of attention from Congress with the passage of lands acts such as the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management

Act that opened up a modern day land rush in Clark County.

The Clark County Conservation of Public Lands and Natural Resources Act is another recently passed legislation that establishes public land priorities in Nevada. As we print this edition of the *Nevada Sage*, special legislation is being considered by the Congress that will designate certain public lands for disposal and set aside other lands for wilderness, parks, and major utility corridors in Lincoln County. Special legislation addressing public lands in Nevada will not end anytime soon as we expect legislative proposals for other parts of the state in the future.

I have had the pleasure of serving as your BLM State Director for the past seven years and with your concurrence, I hope to continue in this role for the foreseeable future. During these years, I have found that we have more in common than we have differences. In 1995, William Cronon wrote, "We need to discover a common middle ground in which all these things, from the city to the wilderness, can somehow be encompassed in the word 'home.' Home, after all, is the place where we make our living. It is the place for which we take responsibility, the place we try to sustain so we can pass on what is best in it (and in ourselves) to our children." For many, the nation's public land is an important component of their "home."

Those of us who are fortunate to serve as stewards of the public's resources have an awesome responsibility. Working through the maze of bureaucracy can be awfully frustrating at times but we can never lose sight of the opportunity we have to enhance the lives of people living today while ensuring that future generations will have similar chances to use, share, and appreciate their public land.

As we quickly glance back at last year's accomplishments and prepare for the opportunities this fiscal year will bring, take a moment to give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done. Whether you are an employee, a partner, a volunteer, or public land stakeholder, you each serve an important role. Keep up the good work.

-Bob Abbey

Finding the Best Science

BLM bases its management decision on the “best available science.” To ensure the best available science is valid and current, the BLM Nevada joined a partnership unit called the Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESUs). CESUs are partnerships among federal agencies and universities created to provide research, technical assistance, and education to federal resource managers.

The Great Basin CESU serves areas of Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, California and Utah. Fourteen universities are involved in the Great Basin CESU as well as six federal agencies. Partnership in the CESU offers access to multidisciplinary problem-solving at several ecological scales; increased collaboration among federal agencies, universities and scientists; and reduced costs through collaboration under a fixed 17.5 percent allowable overhead. Substantial federal agency involvement in carrying out the activity in the agreement is required.

Since joining the CESU in 2001, agreements through the CESU have steadily increased to the point that BLM’s contributions to assistance agreements are over \$2 million. The largest task order signed so far, \$862,500, commits the BLM and the University of Nevada Las Vegas to work together in the coordination and development of an environmental education and research complex to serve Southern Nevada, the state, and the nation. Other federal agencies, research providers, and members of the community are involved in the project.

The CESU accommodates small as well as large projects. The smallest Great Basin CESU project funded to date is a \$3,800 literature review and synthesis treating wind energy development effects on birds of prey.

Other BLM CESU projects include the Great Basin Restoration Initiative near Ely and other research topics that include cultural studies such as archaeological surveys, many wildlife and native plant studies, and mine land rehabilitation studies.

By accessing the CESU network, BLM is able to expand and improve the scientific basis for management decision-making. The CESUs were established by Congress in the National Parks Omnibus Act of 1998. BLM is a member of 15 of the 17 CESU that cover the country. More information about the Great Basin CESU, its projects or participants, can be obtained from Nora Devoe, CESU coordinator, 775-861-6546 or 775-784-1871, **Nora_Devoe@nv.blm.gov**.

Nevada Sage is published by the Nevada State Office, Bureau of Land Management, to inform the public and employees about BLM programs, people and activities in Nevada.

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L a r g e S c a l e S e e d i n g

Decades of controversy over grazing, wildlife, and wild horse use on the 800,000-acre Spruce Allotment have been replaced with resolution and action. The allotment, at one time the largest in northeastern Nevada, is about 30 miles south of Wells and covered an area from Ruby Valley to the Goshute Mountains.

In 1998, BLM completed the allotment evaluation and multiple-use decision process for the Spruce Allotment. Some of the main problems that were identified were:

- **Winter grazing range on the Spruce Allotment was in poor condition from a variety of factors.**
- **The area is critical winter range for the East Humboldt deer herd of about 10,000 animals. Elk, antelope and sage grouse also use the area.**
- **Large wild horse herds in the area were impacting vegetation.**

In 1999, as part of the management actions identified through the process, a division fence was built across the valley, splitting the allotment into the Spruce Allotment and the Valley Mountain Allotment.

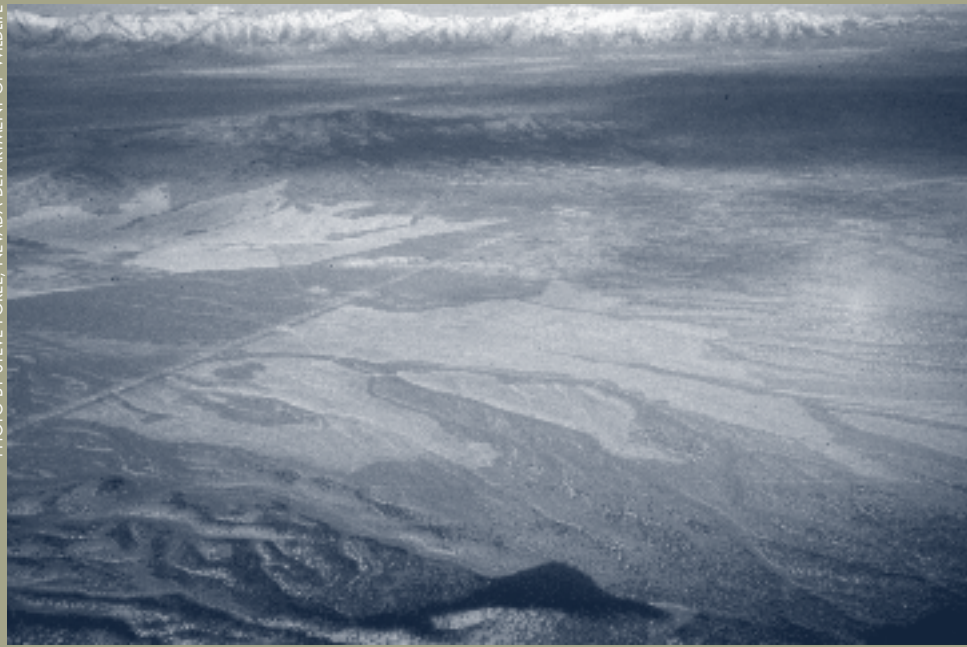
"The division fence was an administrative boundary to make operations easier for the two grazing permittees and for the BLM," said Leticia Lister, BLM range management specialist. "Once the fence was in place, we were able to start working on improving the winter range condition and

implementing the rest of the multiple-use decision."

The grazing season on the allotments is from November to May. The use during April and May was having a detrimental affect on white sage. Those months are an important growing period for white sage, which is valuable forage for livestock and antelope.

"In the early discussions during the allotment evaluation and multiple-use decision process, we knew we would have to figure out an alternative for the grazing livestock during

PHOTO BY STEVE FOREE, NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE



Aerial view of part of the Spruce Mountain project. The large clear areas were seeded using disks, drills and helicopters. U.S. Hwy 93, about 30 miles south of Wells, is the line shown in the photo.

April and May," said Lister.

Ranchers, sportsmen and the Nevada Department of

Project Completed

Wildlife worked with the BLM Elko Field Office specialists to discuss seeding areas within the allotments to provide spring forage, including what kind of species to plant, where to plant, how many acres would need to be seeded,

seed at a rate of four animal unit months (AUMs) per acre instead of the typical seeding rate of three AUMs per acre to compensate for the wildlife and wild horse use."

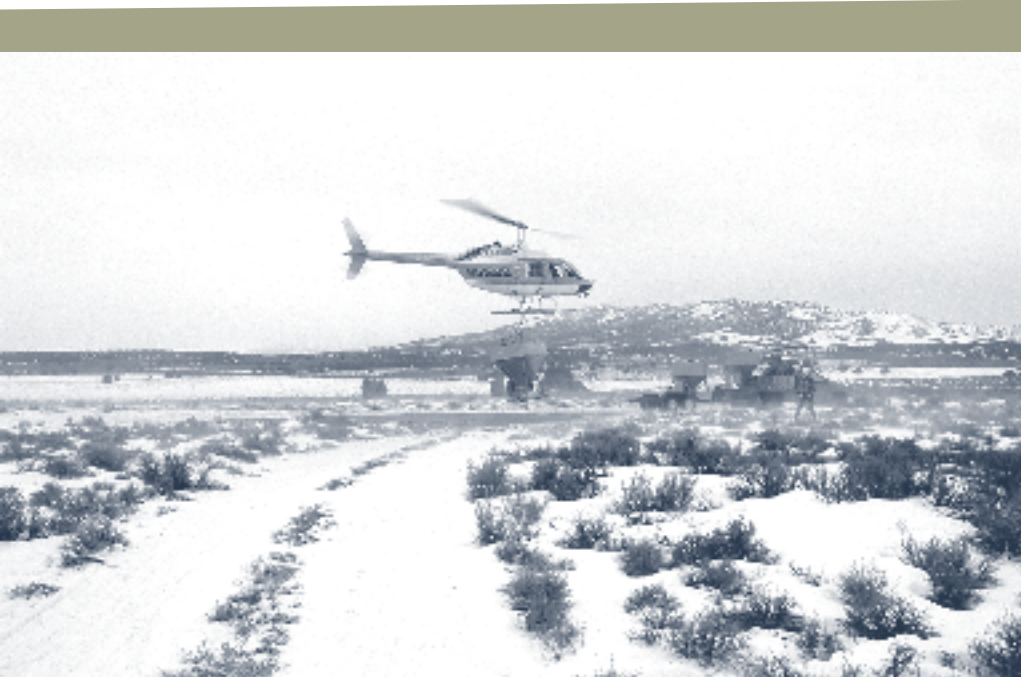
"There was no increase in overall use by livestock on the allotments," said Lister. "The goal is to provide a place for livestock to go during the critical part of the growing season while reducing use on the native winter grazing range."

The seeding projects began in 2002 and were completed this past spring. Crested wheatgrass is the primary species planted along with native species to provide a diversity of vegetation for all the uses on the allotment.

The cost for project has been nearly \$1 million which includes labor, in-kind donations, materials, and seed. In addition to providing more forage, the seedings also serve as a fuels reduction project in that they create giant fire breaks. The grazing permittees Ken Jones and

Jared Sorenson have been key players in the project. They've shared in the cost providing equipment and labor. By working together, a controversial issue didn't become a controversial project.

-Mike Brown & Leticia Lister
Elko Field Office



BLM PHOTO BY LETICIA LISTER

Planting seeds in snow may seem unusual, but it is actually ideal conditions for planting forage kochia seeds. The seeds are very small and are best aerial seeded so they are not planted too deep in the soil. The blanket of snow helps the seed work down into the soil and provides moisture for germination. The kochia is being overseeded on treatment areas previously planted with a variety of other species using on the ground mechanical methods.

how to avoid impacting wildlife, and how to pay for it.

"The group decided that 7,500 acres should be seeded," said Lister. "That was based on the carrying capacity of the winter range. For example, if the winter range supported X number of cows from November to March, then we needed to provide enough forage to support the same number during April and May. We also decided to

BURNING MAN FESTIVAL:

Burning Man, the annual festival of art and self expression in the Black Rock Desert went off nearly flawlessly this year. The population of Black Rock City reached a record 35,511 people at noon on Fri., Sept. 3. Based on U.S. Census data from 2000, this made the temporary metropolis on the playa the seventh largest city in Nevada for several days.

"BLM is pleased at how well things went," said Dave Cooper, the BLM manager of the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area. "There were no serious injuries and while luck is always a factor, some of the adjustments made following last year's event definitely contributed to this year's success."

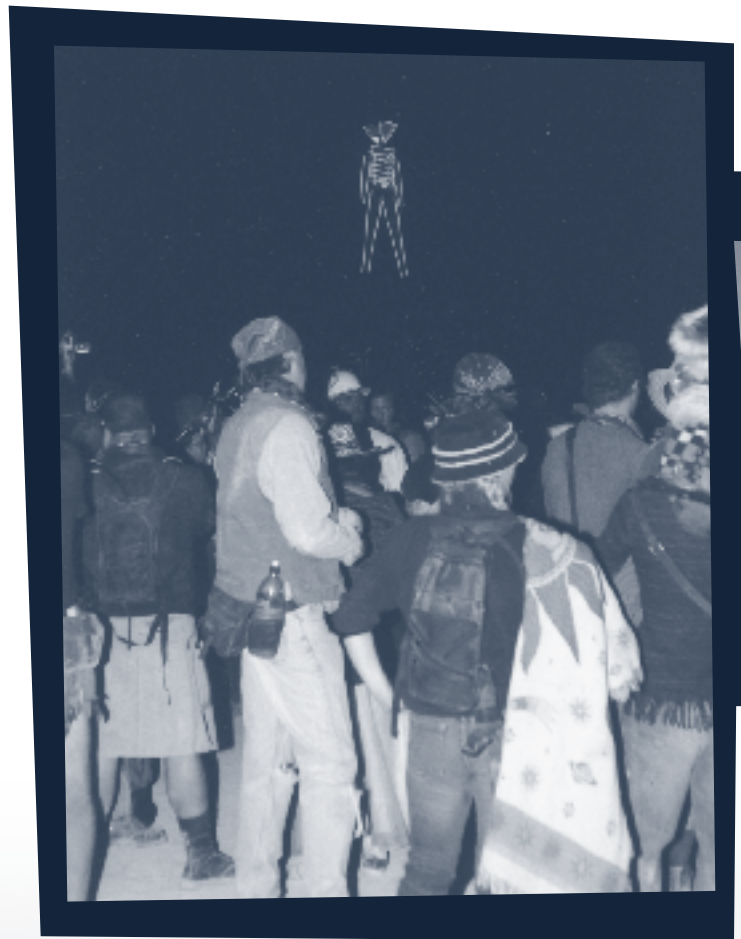
BLM meets with the event organizers, Black Rock City, LLC, several times between events to discuss ways to improve management and administration, to make the festival safer each year than it was the year before, and to protect resources. Among changes implemented this year were increased oversight by Black Rock City, LLC, at the temporary airport and more stringent enforcement of the rules applied to mutant vehicles, the highly imaginative vehicles of all sizes used by participants to cruise the playa. Mutant vehicles found to be unsafe or not in compliance with Black Rock City's operating plan were impounded for the duration of the event.

The weather gave event participants a taste of adversity on Wednesday, Thursday and a good part of Friday. Steady, strong and gusting winds created dust storms that lasted for many hours punctuated by periods of total whiteout conditions. But it was the morning temperatures on Thursday and Friday in low 40s and high 30s that sent Burners scrambling through their belongings and seeking help from better prepared neighbors for anything that could be worn or wrapped to shelter them even a little bit from the frigid conditions. Spirits rallied on Saturday, a clear, warm day, perfect weather for burning the 40-foot wood and neon Man.

BLM regulations require a charge to Black Rock City, LLC, of \$4 per person per day for the seven-day event. The fee due for this year's event, payable in installments, will be about \$710,000. Most of the money is used to cover BLM's costs to permit and administer the event, including BLM and some cooperator law enforcement costs. In accordance with the Fee Demonstration Program, funds remaining after these costs are paid are used to improve resource protection,

facilities and services in the immediate area.

This year, at its peak, there were 62 BLM employees working at the Burning Man event. Of these, 18 were



administrative and operations people. The law enforcement presence included 44 BLM personnel, 12 Pershing County Sheriff's Department personnel and units from the Washoe County Sheriff's Department, Nevada Highway Patrol, and the Nevada Division of Investigation.

Law enforcement statistics are mixed when compared to last year. BLM rangers issued more citations but made fewer arrests. Of the 218 citations, 114 were for drug related offenses, up slightly, and 56 for violations of closure orders. The rest of the citations were for miscellaneous violations

BIGGER, SAFER, COOLER

such as vehicle safety and disorderly conduct.

The Pershing County Sheriff's office worked 27 cases, made four arrests and issued two citations. Washoe County Sheriff's Office reported that it made one felony warrant arrest and wrote 39 citations for traffic violations. The Nevada Highway Patrol reported five traffic accidents on Nevada Highway 447, no major injuries and two DUI arrests.

REMSA recorded significant decreases in medical

next two northbound vehicles crashed into them. There were five injuries, two of which were serious and required air transport. The California Highway Patrol in Alturas reports that it took an hour before the road could be reopened for traffic and by that time there were at least 300 Burner vehicles backed up in the traffic jam.

Just a few days after the last embers from the burned Man cool, Black Rock City, LLC, employees and volunteers begin removing all traces of the event. BLM conducts detailed inspections of the site in October and again in the spring. This year was the 13th time the Burning Man event has been permitted on BLM-managed public land. No adverse environmental effects have yet been discovered.

-Jamie Thompson
Winnemucca Field Office

treatments this year. Patient visits were down from 2,011 last year to 1,569 this year. Transports by ground and air from Black Rock City to Reno for medical care were down from 50 to 38, and injuries due to vehicle accidents (aircraft, mutant vehicles, cars, trucks, scooters, bicycles, etc.) were down from 19 to six. Most importantly, there were no deaths or serious injuries.

The exodus of heavy traffic leaving Burning Man on two-lane roads was smooth despite, at one point, a line of closely-spaced vehicles that stretched for the entire 75 miles from Gerlach south to Fernley. The only serious traffic accident involving Burning Man participants within 100 miles of Gerlach was a four-vehicle pileup on Labor Day about three miles south of Cedarville. A local resident driving south crossed the centerline in front of six northbound vehicles filled with Burners heading home in a group. The southbound vehicle struck the lead northbound one, and the

BLM PHOTOS BY STAN WHITE

Burning Man Event Cooperators

The many cooperators work together to assure that participants in the Burning Man event, area residents and the general public are as safe as possible.

- Federal Aviation Administration
- Pershing County Sheriff's Office
- Nevada Highway Patrol
- Nevada Division of Investigation
- Nevada Department of Transportation
- Nevada Bureau of Health Protection Services
- Nevada Environmental Protection Division
- Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA)
- Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department
- Gerlach General Improvement District
- Gerlach Justice Court
- Washoe County Sheriff's Office
- Washoe County Road Division
- Pyramid Lake Tribal Council
- Union Pacific Railroad

Preventative Fuels Treatments Saves Houses

Carson City residents awoke on the morning of July 14 to a large smoke plume on the mountains west of town. By early afternoon, the fire exploded in heavy timber and roared downhill, driven by 20-30 mph winds. Fire behavior turned erratic and extreme.

The fire, named the Waterfall Fire, would become the worst wildfire ever seen in the Nevada state capital. It raced along the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains into the outskirts of Carson City. By the time the fire was contained it had consumed 8,700 acres of timber and brush land, injured several firefighters and civilians, and destroyed 17 homes, one commercial building, numerous outbuildings, three fire trucks, and several other vehicles.

But, countless other homes and businesses were saved by fuel breaks created by the Carson City Fire Department, the Nevada Division of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service with funding from the National Fire Plan that was provided through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Creating the fuel breaks was accomplished through a strong cooperative effort among local, state and federal fire-fighting agencies and private landowners. Once the federal funds were received, the local fire department talked to homeowners about creating the fuel breaks. To make a fuel break, crews used large shredding machines to grind down the heavy brush in 50-100 foot-wide swaths adjacent to residential developments. A common concern is that the fuel breaks will look like an ugly scar on the landscape. The goal is to keep the natural beauty of an area, yet still have survivable space.

Firefighting crews were able to use these fuel breaks as safe areas to take a stand against the rapidly advancing flames of the Waterfall Fire. Countless homes were saved by the breaks.

Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton and Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn toured the area burned by the fire and saw firsthand

how effectively the fuel breaks protected many homes and business during the fire.

- No homes were lost in the areas with fuel breaks.
- Fire intensity in the fuel breaks was reduced under all conditions.
- The fuel breaks provided crews with relatively safe access to areas lying between the homes and the advancing fire. These



(L.) Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton and Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn toured the area burned by the Waterfall Fire. They saw firsthand how effective fuel breaks were in saving homes.



(R.) Firefighters added a narrow scratch line on the outside edge of the fuel break, set a back fire and were able to quickly move to other threatened areas.

areas would otherwise have been unsafe to enter. From this position firefighters were able to conduct backfiring operations, saving a number of homes from destruction.

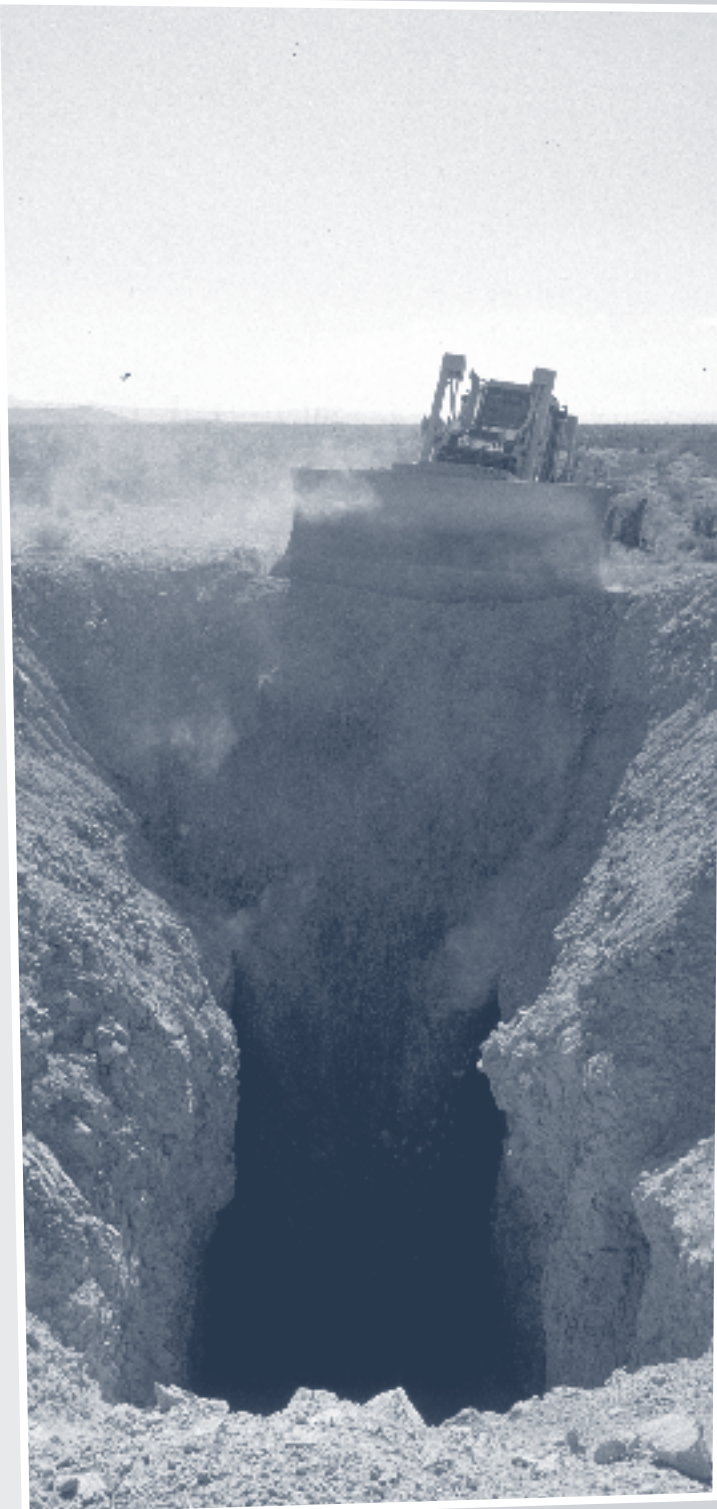
The Waterfall Fire was the worst fire ever to threaten Nevada's Capitol city; without the fuel breaks it would have been even more catastrophic.

Post-fire reviews left little doubt that fuel breaks are an important tool in fighting fire and protecting homes.

-Richard Brown
Nevada State Office

Stay Out and Stay Alive!

Thousands of Abandoned Mines Scattered Throughout Nevada



BLM PHOTOS BY CHRIS ROSS

About 300,000 abandoned mine land (AML) features are strewn throughout Nevada. Of those, nearly 50,000 present a significant safety risk. These adits, shafts and holes are left over from the miner and burro days of the early 1900s. The people who created these workings are long gone and untraceable; now it is up to the BLM and the State to close these sites so they no longer present a threat to public safety.

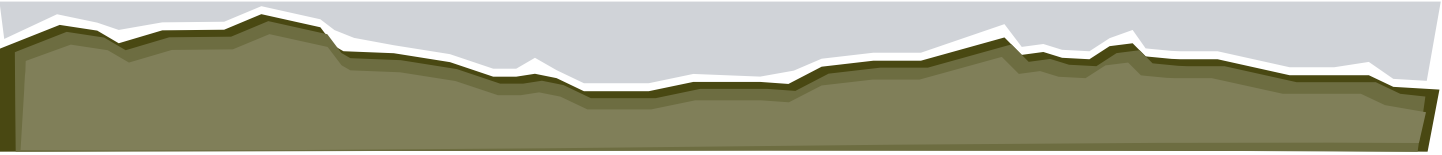
Permanent closure is the only positive method for elimination of hazards. The first step in developing a closure procedure was to prepare the statewide programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Remediation of Abandoned Mine Safety Hazards, which supports a formal finding of no significant impact for mine closure sites that are properly analyzed and cleared under the EA.

The BLM works with the Nevada Division of Minerals to find, fence and prioritize sites for closure. Once site ownership is determined, the BLM conducts archaeological and cultural surveys, wildlife surveys, threatened and endangered species surveys and clearances, plant surveys and issues special notifications for wilderness and wilderness study areas.

Upon discovery, all hazards are secured by fencing and posting warning signs. Sites near cities and areas of high public use are being closed by backfilling. Some sites turn out to be homes for bats, tortoises, or other wildlife, so gates are installed to allow access by wildlife but not people.

Almost every year there are injuries or deaths related to AML sites, from falls and collapses to drowning, asphyxiation and motor vehicle accidents.

Securing these sites near population centers and areas of high public use is a priority. Last year, the BLM, in partnership with the Nevada Mining Association, the Nevada Division of Minerals, Cashman Equipment, Paul DeLong Trucking and Chemical Lime of Las Vegas, completed 41 permanent closures in the Las Vegas area. This year another 30 sites were closed in and around Tonopah. New projects are under way near Las Vegas, Reno and Elko. The success rate in accomplishing these closures receives a significant boost from the assistance of private companies and the Nevada Mining Association. They provide equipment and equipment operators as well as financial support.



Western Shoshone Students Get to Know BLM

Seven Western Shoshone high school students spent eight weeks this summer in an apprentice program designed to introduce them to natural resource management and the BLM.

The program was suggested by Jody Abe, a member of the Western Shoshone Elko Band Council and Te-Moak Tribal Council.

"Who better to help take care of public lands than the Native American people?" said Abe. "If we give kids a chance to learn and experience resource jobs they will have a better idea of what to go after in school. We want them to look at career choices and find out there are other jobs with BLM than fire fighting and pulling weeds. They can do this by interacting with people who work for BLM find out how they got their jobs."

"We're not necessarily grooming the students to be BLM workers in the future," said BLM Native American Coordinator Gerald Dixon. "Our goal is to show them work and career opportunities. Even if they don't end up working for BLM, hopefully, we gave them tools to help them with any direction they choose. We hope they come to BLM; but if they don't, the program is still successful."

My Summer Job *by Heather L. Jackson*

During our first week at BLM, we had various specialists speak to us about each of their jobs. Hugh Stevens, Elko Band Chairman, began the first day with a Shoshone prayer. One of our speakers was Dave Stout, associate field manager, and he explained what the BLM was about. Leticia Lister took us on a tour of the warehouse, the fire engines, fire area and dispatch. At dispatch, we met Bill Roach who told us what happens if we don't check out and check back in and he also told us some stories. Mark Coca showed us many different kinds of noxious weeds, their history on how they arrived in the United States, and how they got their names. Tom Schmidt and Jim Collord talked about the BLM minerals program and the Cortez Mine. Nancy Taylor, Nevada student employment coordinator explained what the STEP and SCEP programs are about and what the differences are. STEP stands for student temporary employment program and includes high school students. SCEP stands for student career experience program and it is for college students. Bruce Piper introduced us to the GPS and GIS system. We were able to work with half the people that came and gave a presentation.

On the second day, we had a Native American intern program orientation on the Shoshone STEP Program. Six Native American people talked to us about how we are taking care of Mother Earth. Shane Ridley-Stevens, Great Basin College recruiter, told us a little bit about what he does. Leah Brady taught us a little bit about how to make willow baskets and cradle boards and also showed us her willow work. She told us about some of the uses for willow baskets. For example, the cradle board is used for babies. Ernest Woodson, MPA, explained how important time management is in life. Jody Abe, Elko Band Council member, told us the story about how the Shoshones and Paiutes came to be and showed us her bead work on buckskin gloves. Elwood Mose, former chairman and now a Te-Moak Authorities manager, spoke about how the communities were a long time ago and how important staying with this program is and a few more Shoshone stories. Elko Band Environmental Department surprised us with a donation of seven big backpacks so we could carry our supplies with us.

GETTING TO KNOW

We had a tour of the Cortez Gold Mine. We saw how the gold was produced, the way they cleaned the gold, their machinery, and the control room.

Most of us went on patrol with the Ranger Carrie Wostal. We went to areas where there may have been vandalism or illegal activities on public land.

We inventoried cultural resources with the archeologists. First we had a two-day training session to become a district archaeologist technician (DAT) and learned what to look for. The archeologist took

equipment and did paperwork. Occasionally we would wash government vehicles. We all took forklift training.

We went with the Minerals, Reclamation and Compliance Specialist, Janice Stadelmen. We inspected notice level operations and explorations plans for 3809 programs. We used the GPS unit to map surface disturbance.

We went to Tabor Creek which is a BLM recreation site where livestock have been fenced out of the creek. We monitored, picked up garbage, pulled scotch thistle at a burned area, and built a fence enclosure so cattle

couldn't destroy the aspen trees.

This program was excellent. There were things we all didn't like, but there were things we did like. The most common things we didn't like were pulling weeds. The common thing we did like was going out with Ranger Carrie. Jared Jake and Kaycee Garcia



(L.) Western Shoshone students inventory public land for cultural resources about one mile west of Wendover along Interstate 80. The land inventoried may be included in a future land sale. The students inventoried about 640 acres. In one parcel they found a remnant of the old Victory Highway, the predecessor of Interstate 80.

(R.) Students at Tabor Creek Recreation Area.



us to a site at Franklin Lake in Ruby Valley where we found flakes, arrow head points, and grinding stones. In Wendover and Jackpot there were many old cans. We found some flakes in Jackpot.

In the warehouse we inventoried, organized supplies,

shadowed Helen Hankins, Elko field manager, and talked on the Elko radio station. Justin Hill, Joseph Moon, and I built a fence enclosure. Lance Woodson and Cisca Moore moved cattle to their proper location with the ranger.

THE BLM

Nevada Mine Wins National Environmental Award

Round Mountain Gold Corporation's Manhattan Mine in Nye County was awarded the Department of the Interior's Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award. In presenting the award at the MINExpo International, the world's largest mining exposition, BLM Director Kathleen Clarke recognized Round Mountain Gold as a leader in the industry and a good partner in the stewardship of the public lands and resources.

"Round Mountain Gold demonstrates a willingness to go beyond what is required by law to maintain healthy wildlife populations, protect water quality, and be good neighbors in their community," said Clarke.

Round Mountain Gold Corporation's Manhattan Mine, in

Nye County, received the award for its innovative reclamation designs. The mine's reclamation plan stabilized or removed historic mine features, eliminated public hazards, and shaped piles of waste rock into landforms that blended with the surroundings. Round Mountain Gold Corporation also developed a new and effective technique for treating water used in the mining process. The gravity-driven system permanently contains solutions in a lined facility, protecting groundwater better than conventional closure methods, with virtually no long-term maintenance.

The Manhattan Mine received the BLM Nevada Excellence in Mine Reclamation Award in 2001.

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